

Message Text

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10

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 /085 W

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R 211000Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3580

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

RUEHCRXAMCONSUL CAPE TOWN 281

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0617

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI PINT AO

SUBJECT: THE MILITARY LINEUP

CINCLANT AND CINCEUR FOR POLAD

1. THE FOLLOWING LIBERATION GROUP FORCE LEVELS WERE PROVIDED
US BY THE INFORMATION OFFICER FOR THE PORTUGUESE HIGH COMMAND
WHO IS ALSO A LEADER OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT IN ANGOLA
AND WHO HAS BEEN A CONSISTENTLY RELIABLE SOURCE OF MILITARY
INFORMATION.

OVERALL TROOP STRENGTH: FNLA - 33,000; MPLA - 18,000; UNITA -
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WTNPPP KONLY 6,000 HAVE ARMS)

IN ANGOLA: FNLA - 18,000 - 20,000; MPLA - 17,000; UNITA - 25,000.

IN LUANDA: FNLA - 3,000 -#4,000; MPLA - 2,000; UNITA - 1,200.

IN CABINDA: FNLA - 700; MPLA - 1,300; UNITA - 250.

IN ADDITION, THE SOURCE CREDITS FLEC (THE FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE ENCLAVE OF CABINDA) WITH 7,000 TROOPS, OF WHICH 5,000 ARE IN ZAIRE AND 2,000 IN THE CONGO.

2. THE FORCE LEVEL FIGURES CAN BE ASSUMED TO BE REASONABLY ACCURATE FOR MPLA AND FNLA BUT BY NO MEANS DEFINITIVE. (THE PORTUGUESE LONG AGO LOST THEIR EXCELLENT DGS-RUN INTELLIGENCE NETWORKS INSIDE THE MOVEMENTS AND NOW DEPEND LARGELY ON SECONDARY SOURCES.) HOWEVER TO ATTRIBUTE 7,000 MEN TO FLEC SEEMS TO US A GROSS EXAGGERATION IF IT REFERRED ONLY TO CABINDAN SOLDIERS. THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY FEELS THERE ARE LARGE NUMBERS OF NON-CABINDANS IN FLEC'S ARMY (CONGOLESE AND ZAIROIS) AND THAT THIS ACCOUNTS FOR THE SUDDEN INCREASE IN THEIR STRENGTH. ALSO UNITA'S 25,000 SEEMS LOW TO US. 'LUANDA 0392). WE JUDGE 35,000 IS CLOSER TO THE MARK BUT AGREE THAT PERHAPS ONLY 6,000 NOW HAVE WEAPONS.

3. COMMENT: THE POINT OF THESE NUMBERS IS THAT FNLA HAS LOST MILITARY SUPREMACY OVER MPLA. A YEAR AGO FNLA HAD A MASSIVE LEAD OF 18,000 TO 25,000. EVEN AS LATE AS JANUARY FNLA HAD 22,000 TROOPS WHILE MPLA HAD ONLY 6,000. NOW, WHILE FNLA STILL HAS 15,000 MORE EFFECTIVES THAN MPLA, THE TWO FORCES ARE EQUAL IN SIZE WITHIN ANGOLA AND FNLA'S LONG SUPPLY LINES ACT TO NEGATE THE REMAINING NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY OF THE EXTRA 15,000 IN ZAIRE. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT THAT MOST SERIOUS FIGHTING TO DATE - AND THE LIKELY SITES OF FUTURE BATTLES - ARE IN PRO-MPLA TERRITORY WHERE THE CIVILIAN POPULACE IS HOSTILE TO FNLA AND WHERE MANY BLACK CIVILIANS ARE ARMED AGAINST THEM.
PORTER

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